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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended): A closure comprising:

a top wall;

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a skirt surrounding said top wall and extending downwardly therefrom with a terminating edge opposite said top wall defining an open bottom end;

a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall; and,

a helical thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface circumscribing said inner surface of said skirt, said thread having a lower thread profile end of a first horizontal depth and an upper thread profile end of a second horizontal depth, said first horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth, said upper thread profile extending downwardly from said non-back-off bead.

Claim 2. (original): The closure of Claim 1, including a seal on the inner surface of said top wall.

Claim 3. (original): The closure of Claim 2, said seal being positioned between said top wall and said bead.

Claim 4. (original): The closure of Claim 2, said seal being disc-shaped.

Claim 5. (original): The closure of Claim 2, said seal being linerless.

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Claim 6. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 1, said thread being tapered to a second horizontal depth terminating coincident to said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said bead.

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Claim 7. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 6, said second horizontal depth further tapering flush with said inner surface of said skirt.

Claim 8. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 7, said second horizontal depth ending at a point coincident with a bead disposed between said top wall and said second horizontal depth.

Claim 9. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 1, wherein said first horizontal depth is about .0475 inches and said second horizontal depth is about .01 inches.

Claim 10. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 9, said thread being further tapered to a nominal horizontal depth terminating prior to reaching said bead.

Claim 11. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 10, said thread diminishing in horizontal depth between said first and second horizontal depths.

Claim 12. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 9, said thread diminishing in horizontal depth over an arc of between 45° and 120° from said upper thread profile end.

Claim 13. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 9, said thread diminishing in horizontal depth over a 90° arc from said upper thread profile end.

Claim 14. (currently amended): A closure comprising:

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a top wall and skirt depending from said top wall;

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a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall; and,

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a helical thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface, a lower thread portion of a first horizontal depth and an upper thread portion of a second horizontal depth, said first horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth, said upper thread portion of said thread extending downwardly from said bead.

Claim 15. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 14, said thread being tapered to a horizontal depth terminating coincident to said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said bead.

Claim 16. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 14, said thread being variable in horizontal depth over an arc of about 90° of said upper thread portion end.

Claim 17. (original): The closure of Claim 14, wherein a seal is located between said bead and said top wall.

Claim 18. (currently amended): A closure comprising:

a top wall and an annular skirt depending from said top wall;

a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall;

a helical thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface, a lower thread profile end of a first horizontal depth and an upper thread profile end of a second horizontal depth, said first

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horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth, said upper profile extending downwardly from said bead and said thread having a flat upper surface;

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said thread being tapered to a horizontal depth terminating coincident to said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said bead; and,

said thread being variable in horizontal depth over an arc of between 45° and 120° from said upper thread profile end.

Claim 19. (currently amended): The closure of Claim 19 18, wherein a seal is located between said bead and said top wall.

Claim 20. (currently amended): A closure, comprising:

a top wall and annular skirt depending therefrom;

a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall;

a helically circumscribing thread integral with an inner surface of said skirt;

said thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface;

said thread tapering into said skirt beneath said bead over an arc of between 45° to about 120° and,

said thread being tapered to a horizontal depth flush with said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said top wall.

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Claim 21. (currently amended): A closure, comprising:

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a circular top wall and skirt depending therefrom;

a helical thread circumscribing an inner surface of said skirt and having a flat upper surface along its entire length, said flat upper surface being at an angle of about 90° to said skirt;

said helical thread having a lower profile of a first horizontal depth of about .0475 inches and an upper profile of a second horizontal depth of about .01 inch;

said first horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth such that said upper profile tapers into said skirt sidewall from said second horizontal depth to a third horizontal depth of about 0 (zero) inches.